

# NCHSR

## PROGRAM SOLICITATION

### **Individual National Research Service Awards for Health Services Research**

**1988**

**DEPOSITORY**

**MAY 1 1987**

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
National Center for Health Services Research  
and Health Care Technology Assessment**

The National Center for Health Services Research and Health Care Technology Assessment (NCHSR) announces the availability of Individual National Research Service Awards (NRSA) (Fellowship) in health services research.

Individual National Research Service Awards (Fellowship) will be made for postdoctoral research fellowships providing opportunities for academic training as well as experience in applying research methods to the systematic analysis and evaluation of the organization, financing, utilization and delivery of health care services. The NCHSR plans to award approximately 10 fellowships during fiscal year 1988.

**Applications for individual postdoctoral research fellowships must be received at the NIH Division of Research Grants on or before September 10, 1987 and January 10, 1988.** Applicants will be notified of review decisions during April and July 1988, respectively. The earliest start date for research fellowship support will be during May and August 1988.

The authority for NRSA is Section 472 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended (42 USC 289 I-1). Title 42 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 66, and the *Public Health Service Grants Policy Statement* are applicable.

Health services research deals with a broad range of issues, perspectives and methods pertinent to understanding and modifying health care systems. Systematic analyses and evaluations of the organization, financing, utilization and delivery of health care services often require collaborative efforts among various disciplines, employment of empirical approaches, and analysis of complex data sets. Applied health services research draws on a variety of conceptual and statistical models to address policy issues.

Postdoctoral training in health services research can contribute to the resolution of systemic and policy problems in several areas. NCHSR's extramural program addresses the entire range of issues around the organization, financing, and delivery of health services, with particular interest in primary care/health promotion and disease prevention, technology assessment, the role of market forces in health care delivery, and studies relevant to issues faced by State and local governments.

Research training should provide the conceptual and methodological foundation to empirically address, for example, such concerns as:

- Primary care issues, including the development of techniques to measure the effectiveness of follow-up care and to assess patient compliance
- Medical practice variations and patient outcomes
- Survey design and methods, and applied computer science
- The relationships between the allocations of health care resources and their effects on health status

- The factors affecting the dissemination and transfer of health care technologies, and the design of new methods to assess these technologies
- Protocols involved in cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analyses
- Health problems of the frail and elderly population in order to identify and explain differences in the costs, quality of care, and organizational arrangements in caring for this population
- Postdoctoral training in the epidemiology of chronic illness, geriatric medicine, and health economics.

## Eligibility

Applicants for postdoctoral fellowships must, at the time of application, be citizens of the United States, or noncitizen nationals, or non-citizens who have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence and have in their possession an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-151 or I-551). (Noncitizen nationals are persons who, although not citizens of the United States, owe permanent allegiance to the United States. They are generally persons born in lands which are not States, but which are under United States sovereignty, jurisdiction, or administration, as for example, American Samoa.) Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.

Applicants must have received, by the beginning date of the NRSA appointment, a Ph.D., M.D., or other relevant doctoral degree, or an equivalent degree from an accredited domestic or foreign institution. Applicants trained as physicians are especially encouraged to apply.

Certification from an authorized official of the degree-granting institution that all degree requirements have been met is acceptable.

## Applications

Prior to making formal application, an individual applicant must be accepted by an appropriate institution, and by a sponsor who will supervise his or her training and research experience. The organizational setting must be nonprofit, either public or private. In the application, the sponsor will describe in detail the research training plan and the availability of suitable staff and facilities. Formal training is not necessarily limited to a single academic institution or discipline. The sponsor must be an established investigator who is active in health services research and who personally will supervise the applicant's training and research program.



Fellowship applications for continued training at the same institution or under the same sponsor should describe those opportunities for new training experiences which will broaden the applicant's scientific background.

**Period of support.** Applications may be for 1-, 2-, or 3-year fellowships. No one is eligible for more than 3 years of aggregate NRSA support at the postdoctoral level, including any combination of support from institutional training grants and research fellowships.

**Documents to be submitted.** Applicants must submit the original and two copies of Public Health Service form PHS 416-1, Individual National Research Service Award Application, to the following address:

Division of Research Grants  
National Institutes of Health  
5333 Westbard Avenue  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

**Do not mail this application directly to NCHSR.**

If the applicant is a noncitizen national, a notarized statement of permanent residence is required.

NRSA application material is available from NCHSR, Chief, Review and Advisory Services Program.

**The Submission and review schedule is:**

| NIH/DRG<br>submission | Study section<br>review | Notification<br>to applicant | Earliest<br>start date |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sept. 10, 1987        | March 1988              | April 1988                   | May 1988               |
| Jan. 10, 1988         | June 1988               | July 1988                    | August 1988            |

**Criteria for review**

Applications will be reviewed by a committee which will include non-Federal consultants from appropriate scientific fields. The committee will use the following criteria in evaluation applications: (1) the applicant's past academic and research accomplishments, (2) the applicant's research goals, (3) the research training proposed, (4) the qualifications of the sponsor and the appropriateness of the training environment, (5) the reference reports and other relevant information. NCHSR will consider the recommendations of the review committee, program interests, and the availability of funds in making the final selection of awardees.

## Stipends and other training costs

Research fellowship awards include a stipend for the fellow and an allowance to the sponsoring institution.

The stipend level is determined by the number of years of relevant postdoctoral experience at the time the award is issued. Relevant experience may include research experience, teaching, internship, residency, or other time spent in full-time studies in a health-related field beyond that of the qualifying doctoral degree. Current postdoctoral stipends are:

| Years<br>of relevant<br>experience | Annual<br>stipend |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 0                                  | 15,996            |
| 1                                  | 17,004            |
| 2                                  | 21,996            |
| 3                                  | 23,004            |
| 4                                  | 24,000            |
| 5                                  | 26,004            |
| 6                                  | 27,996            |
| 7 or more                          | 30,000            |

NCHSR will provide up to \$3,000 per 12-month period to non-Federal sponsoring institutions to cover such awardee expenses as tuition and fees, health insurance, research supplies, equipment, travel to scientific meetings, and related items. No allowance is provided for dependents or for an individual's travel to the training site.

**Taxability of stipends.** The Internal Revenue Service ruled in 1983 that National Research Service Awards are scholarship or fellowship grants under section 117 of the Internal Revenue Code. Section 117 is that part of the Code which applies to the tax treatment of all scholarships and fellowships. In general, it provides that degree candidates may exclude the full amount of scholarships or fellowships from their gross income for purposes of taxation, and non-degree candidates may exclude up to \$300 a month of such awards for up to 36 months. The interpretation and implementation of the tax laws are the domain of the Internal Revenue Service and the courts. Individuals should consult an IRS office about the applicability of their situations and for information on the proper steps to be taken regarding their tax obligations.

## Conditions of the award

Fellowships are awarded for full-time research training. However, it is recognized that there is a close interrelationship between teaching and research in the academic environment. Fellows are permitted, with the approval of the sponsor, to undertake teaching that can contribute meaningfully to their academic training. Any teaching undertaken by a fellow should not require more than 10 percent of work time during the year nor exceed 4 hours per week.

NRSA stipends may be supplemented by the sponsoring institution from non-Federal funds. No Federal funds may be used for stipend supplementation unless specifically authorized under the terms of the program from which funds are derived. Under no circumstances may the conditions of stipend supplementation detract from or prolong the training.

A NRSA research fellowship may not be held concurrently with another Federally sponsored fellowship or similar Federal award that provides a stipend or otherwise duplicates provisions of the NRSA. However, an individual may accept concurrent educational remuneration from the Veterans Administration (for example, G.I. Bill) and Federal loan funds.

**Activation.** An awardee has up to 6 months from the date of issue of the award notice to activate the award.

**Payback provision.** Before an award is made, the selectee must sign an agreement to fulfill the legislatively mandated payback requirements. Recipients must agree to engage in full-time health services research and/or teaching for a period equal to the period of NRSA support in excess of 12 months. Once an individual has had 12 months of postbaccalaureate NRSA support, all subsequent NRSA support is subject to payback.

Recipients must begin to undertake the obligated service on a continuous basis within 2 years after termination of NRSA support. For individuals who fail to fulfill their obligation through service, the United States is entitled to recover the total amount paid to the individual for the obligated period, plus interest. Financial repayment must be completed within 3 years.

Under certain conditions, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may extend the period for undertaking service or for repayment, permit breaks in service, or otherwise waive or suspend the payback obligation of an individual.



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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

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